

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7 and cancelled Claims 2-6. Amendments to the claims are made to reflect acceptance of the allowable subject matter recited in the outstanding Office Action. Applicant submits that no new matter has been entered by way of the foregoing amendments and prompt entry of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has allowed claims 13-17. (See Office Action, Page 2, line 1.) The Examiner objects to claims 6-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but such Claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See Office Action, Page 2, line 2-5.) Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Claims 2-6 are therefore cancelled. Claim 7 has been amended to recite proper antecedent basis as now being dependent upon claim 1. Thus, claims 1 and 7-17 remain in the present application. Each of claims 1 and 7-17 recite allowable subject matter as recited in the Office Action. No new matter has been entered by way of the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests prompt entry of the claim amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 1 and 7-17.

The Examiner sets forth the following art based rejections:

- Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Naegele (US 6,435,937);

- Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Luedke et al. (US, 6,110,079); and

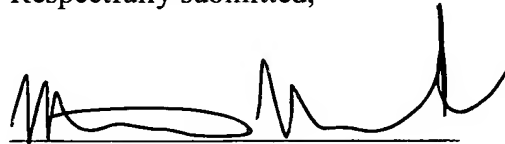
- Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luedke et al.

In view of the amendments set forth herein, the foregoing art based rejections are rendered moot since the remaining claims all recite allowable subject matter as discussed hereinabove and recited in the Office Action.

3. CONCLUSION

In view of the above-mentioned amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections to the claims are now traversed and should be withdrawn. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's statement that claims 13-17 are allowed and claims 6-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Early and favorable action issuing a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation may be useful in advancing prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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